

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A method for tartaric stabilisation, in particular for wine, characterised in that it comprises the following phases:

placing the wine to be treated in an appropriate container;

conveying the wine into a filtering unit;

subjecting the wine contained in said filtering unit to a nanofiltration process, obtaining a permeated liquid and a treated liquid;

reuniting said treated liquid with said retained liquid to obtain a treated liquid.

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said tartaric stabilisation treatment phase occurs acting on the permeated liquid with ionic exchange resin.

3. (original) A method as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that said tartaric stabilisation treatment phase occurs employing cationic exchange resins, reducing in particular the potassium ion content of the permeated liquid.

4. (original) A method as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that said tartaric stabilisation treatment occurs employing anionic exchange resins, reducing in particular the tartrate ion content of the permeated liquid.

5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said tartaric stabilisation treatment phase occurs acting on the permeated liquid by means of electrodialysis, reducing both the potassium and calcium ion content and the tartrate ion content of the permeated liquid.

6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said phase of subjecting the wine to a nanofiltration process is conducted by means of membrane filtration.

7. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said phases are repeated cyclically.

8. (original) An apparatus for implementing a method for tartaric stabilisation, in particular for wine, characterised in that it comprises:

a container for the wine having an inlet and an outlet;

a unit for filtering the wine, having an inlet for introducing the wine, a first outlet and a second outlet said filtering unit comprising means for nanofiltering the wine to

obtain a permeated liquid in correspondence with said first outlet and a retained liquid in correspondence with said second outlet;

means for conveying the wine from the outlet of said container to the inlet of said filtering unit;

a tartaric stabilisation unit connected at the inlet to said first outlet of the filtering unit to treat said permeated liquid and obtain a treated liquid;

means for reuniting said treated liquid flowing out of said tartaric stabilisation unit with said retained liquid coming from said second outlet of the filtering unit to obtain a treated wine.

9. (original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that said tartaric stabilisation unit is a unit for treating liquids by means of ionic exchange resins.

10. (original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that said resins are cationic exchange resins.

11. (original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 9, characterised in that said resins are anionic exchange resins.

12. (original) An apparatus as claims in claim 8, characterised in that said tartaric stabilisation unit is an electrodialysis unit.

13. (original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that said means for conveying the wine from said container to said filtering unit comprise a pump.

14. (original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that said filtering unit comprises a membrane whose porosity ranges from 100 to 300 Daltons.

15. (original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 14, characterised in that said membrane has a porosity ranging from 120 to 220 Dalton.

16. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said reuniting means comprise means for reinserting said treated wine into said container obtaining a continuous treatment cycle of the wine.

17. (new) The method of claim 3, wherein said tartaric stabilisation treatment phase also employs an anionic exchange resin employed in sequence with said cationic exchange resin, whereby tartrate ion content of said permeated liquid is reduced.